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The Ailantus.—An English exchange says: Many complaints have been made of the overpowering and offensive odor of the flowers of the *Ailantus* trees planted in the streets of Paris and other large cities. According to Mr. E. André, it is only the flowers of the male trees which exhale this unpleasant scent, and he recommends that none but female trees should be for the future planted in public or other places where the peculiar odor of the males might be offensive. This would seem an important point for Americans and others who plant the *Ailantus* largely as a street tree."

The fact pointed out by Mr. André belongs to the domain of ancient history in this country.

A Large Poplar.—In the Botanical Garden at Dijon there is a poplar of colossal dimensions (species not stated) to which Mr. Joly devotes a note in the *Journal de la Société Nationale d'Horticulture.* The height of this tree is 130 feet. Its circumference near the earth is 46 feet, and, at 16 feet above the earth, 21 feet. Its bulk is now 1,590 cubic feet, but six years ago, before the fall of one of the large branches, it was 1,940. From some historic researches made by Dr. Lavelle, and a comparison with trees of the same species in the vicinity, it has been pretty well ascertained that this poplar is at least 500 years old.

Unfortunately, it is now completely hollow up to the point whence the large branches spring. All the dead portions have been removed, and the interior has been filled in with beton.—*La Nature.*

Origin of the Name Tillandsia.—The long moss was named *Tillandsia* because of its aversion to water. Linnæus says he named it after a professor at Abo, who, in his youth, having an unpropitious passage from Stockholm to that place, no sooner set his foot on shore than he vowed never again to venture upon the sea. He changed his original name to Tillands, meaning (in Swedish) 'by land.' Afterwards, having occasion to return to Sweden, he took a circuitous journey of 200 Swedish miles through Lapland to avoid going eight miles by sea.—*Garden.*

Ginkgo.—According to Mr. B. S. Lyman (in *Science*), *ginkgo*, the usual orthography of the popular name for *Salisburia adiantifolia*, is due to a misprint in Kæmpfer's Amœnitates Exoticæ. In order to agree with the pronunciation as heard in Japan, the word (which means 'silver apricot,' or 'silver almond') should be written *ginkĭyoo* (the *g* hard, and the two *o's* long.) *Ginkiyoo* is the name of the fruit, the tree itself being called *ichoo* (*ch* soft and the *o's* long, as before.) Mr. Lyman says: "The juice of the thick pulp outside the nut is very astringent, and is used in making a somewhat waterproof, tough paper, and a preservative black wash for fences and buildings. The meat of the nut is cooked and eaten."

Botanical Literature.

The Microscope in Botany. A guide for the Microscopical Investigation of Vegetable Substances. From the German of Dr. Julius Wilhelm Behrens. Translated and edited by Rev. A. B. Hervey, A.M., assisted by R. H. Ward, M.D., F.R.M.S. Illustrated with 13 plates and 153 cuts. Boston: S. E. Cassino & Co., 1885. 8vo, pp. 466.

This is a work which should be in the hands of every botanist who is interested in investigations into the deeper problems of plant-life. The first two chapters are devoted to brief descriptions of the microscopical apparatus necessary for his purposes, with directions for using them, and to the manner in which microscopical work should be performed. The translators have substituted descriptions and figures of American instruments for those of the Continental style described in the corresponding chapters in the German edition, inasmuch as the foreign apparatus are comparatively unused and unavailable in this country.

The third chapter contains very full directions for the preparation of microscopical objects. The fourth and fifth chapters are devoted, respectively, to microscopical re-agents and microscopical investigations of vegetable substances. In these two chapters, which constitute the most valuable portion of the work, the student will find a very large number of facts and hints that will aid him greatly in the practical performance of those delicate manipulations that he will be obliged to master before he can become an expert in the histological investigation of plants.

The book is very handsomely printed, and the illustrations are both numerous and excellent.

Canadian Filicineæ. By John Macoun, M.A., F.L.S., and T. J. W. Burgess, M.D. 4to, pp. 64. From *Transactions* of the Royal Society of Canada.

Note sur la Division des Noyaux dans le Tradescantia Virginica. Par E. Bernimoulin de l' Institut Botanique de l' Université de Liége. From the *Bulletin* de la Societé Royale de Botanique de Belgique.

A Catalogue of the Phænogamous Plants at present known to grow without cultivation in the State of Connecticut. By James N. Bishop. 8vo, pamph., pp. 18. Hartford, Conn., 1885.

Catalogue of the Phænogamous and Vascular Cryptogamous Plants found growing in Meriden, Conn. By Emily J. Leonard. In *Transactions* of the Scientific Association of Meriden. Vol. i., 1884, pp. 40.

A descriptive Catalogue of the Grasses of the United States, including especially the Grass Collections at the New Orleans Exposition. By Dr. Geo. Vasey, Washington: Gibson Bros. 1885. 8vo, pp. 110.

Notizie sulla Agricoltura in Italia da servire come Illustrazione alle Raccolte inviate dal Ministero di Agricoltura alla Esposizione Universale di Anversa nell' anno 1885. Roma: Tipografia Fratelli Centenari. 1885. 8vo, pp. 141.

Correction.—On page 60, line 14, *Farsetia* should be substituted for *Marrubium.*